

EPA Agency, Region 9

Drinking Water Protection Section

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms Rumrill

When EPA issued a UIC permit to the mining company BHP in 1997 the landscape was very different then than it is today. There were no developments, little housing, no wells to be concerned about and much of the land was owned by the mining company.

Fast forward 17 years to 2015 and the landscape has changed dramatically. There are many developments including Anthem, Magic Ranch, Crestfield, and Wildhorse and all are expanding. The population of San Tan Valley has grown to 85,000 residents. All depend on the aquifer under the mine for their drinking water.

Your section of EPA, which is to protect drinking water, is faced with a unique situation. The 160 acres of state leased land which would be the site of the pilot test are completely surrounded by land zoned for residential and commercial use with developments already in existence. Florence Copper does not own any land zoned for mining. How can EPA justify placing a pilot test for mining in the middle of a Master Planned Community?

Under your leadership how many UIC permits have been issued? Where are the locations of the other in-situ copper mines? Please indicate for each location the success or failure of hydraulic control and protection of drinking water. How many of these locations are totally surrounded by residential land?

Since it is the responsibility of your section of EPA to prevent the contamination of aquifers you must refuse the request from Florence Copper for UIC permit.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and your response to my questions.

Barbara Manning